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ABSTRACT

This paper describes a resource tool called a pathfinder, which is a specialized bibliography used by public, academic, and school librarians to compile related information into a single document, usually under 10 pages. This Middle East Pathfinder contains 14 types of information sources including: (1) a brief introduction to the topic with sources; (2) general information and sources of a factual nature; (3) folklore resources; (4) picture books; (5) middle readers; (6) historical fiction; (7) holidays and celebrations resources; (8) other genres; (9) food resources; (10) art and craft resources; (11) information on a representative author or illustrator; (12) videos; (13) web sites; and (14) curricular resources (lessons plans). (EH)

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Middle East Pathfinder:
Fiction and Nonfiction Resources for K-12 Educators

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SO 028 410

Introduction

This document is the result of a pathfinder project started in a course taught by Dona Helmer, Associate Professor, Education Librarian, Curriculum Resource Center, Montana State University-Billings Library. The course, "Teaching Multicultural Children's Literature," was offered in the summer session 1996. Ms. Helmer provided the pathfinder model used in this guide. Norma Glock and Emily Hanson, both K-12 educators in Montana, contributed to the "Middle East Pathfinder" developed in this course.

The Pathfinder as a Resource Tool

The pathfinder is essentially a specialized bibliography. This bibliographic tool is used by public, academic, and school librarians to compile related information into a single document (usually under 10 pages). Library patrons use the pathfinder to locate information resources on a specific topic. The pathfinder is a convenient method of providing access to information that is frequently requested by library patrons.

The pathfinder model used for this document contains fourteen types of information resources. These information resources span the curriculum (language arts, social studies, and art for example), so the topic could be incorporated in one or more classes. The types of information resources included were designed with K-12 educators information needs. These resources are particularly useful for teachers or librarians serving elementary students.

The Middle East Pathfinder

The Middle East Pathfinder contains the following elements: brief introduction to the topic with sources; general information (usually facts) and sources; folklore resources; picture books; middle readers; historical fiction; holidays and celebrations resources; other genres; food resources; art and craft resources; information on a representative author or illustrator; videos; Web sites; and curricular (lesson plans) resources.

The resources listed in the pathfinder were locally available. The Middle East Pathfinder does not attempt to be comprehensive on the topic. The short bibliography of titles indexed in ERIC points to the need for additional and up-to-date resources on this part of the world.

Other Resource Guides and Tools

There are many resources that researchers, educators, and librarians can use to locate books, videos, and other educational materials on a specific subject. An ERIC search was a starting point for some of the material included in The Middle East Pathfinder. A bibliography of titles listed in ERIC from 1982-1996 is included with this document.

The Middle East as a Multicultural Literature Topic

There are many multicultural topics one can choose when examining children's literature. As with any cultural or ethnic group, stereotypes are abundant. This Middle East Pathfinder concentrates on the Arab and Muslim cultures of the Middle East in children's literature. Stereotypes of Arabs and Muslims are abundant in the United States. Terrorists, sheiks, harems, and the Arab-Israeli conflict are images commonly associated with Arabs, immigrants from the Middle East, or Muslims. Although many aspects of the Arab/Middle East cultures are different from American culture, there are numerous aspects that our cultures share which are commonly overlooked--worship of one God, the importance of family, and a common dependence on oil as the basis for economic stability.

The Middle East Pathfinder--A Starting Point

The Middle East Pathfinder is a starting point for locating resources on the Middle East. Some resources included in the pathfinder are more current and less stereotypical than others. Hopefully, librarians and educators will use these resources in their art, history, social studies, and language classes to examine the images Americans have about the Middle East and the Arab culture. It is also important that US teachers and students understand the culture of the growing number of Arab or other immigrants from the Middle East who live in the US.

Paula Duffy, MSU-Billings Library, 1996

ERIC Bibliography Middle East Resources
1982-1996

Albright, Charlotte F. (1982). Teaching the Middle East; Topics and resources. . Indiana Social Studies Quarterly, 35(2), 77-87.

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Washington DC. Teachers' resouces on the Middle East. Wachington DC.: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 363 531).

Anderson, Tigge Anne & Crump-Dumesnil, Elizabeth. Bibliography of learning and teaching resources to support cultural diversity. Edmonton: Alberta Dept. of Education. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. Ed 374 806).

Griswold, William J. (1986). Middle East. Social-Education, 50(5), 357-366.

Jones, Catherine E., Ed. (1988). Middle East materials for teachers, students, non-specialists. Tucson, AZ: Department of Oriental Studies, University of Arizona. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 316 482).

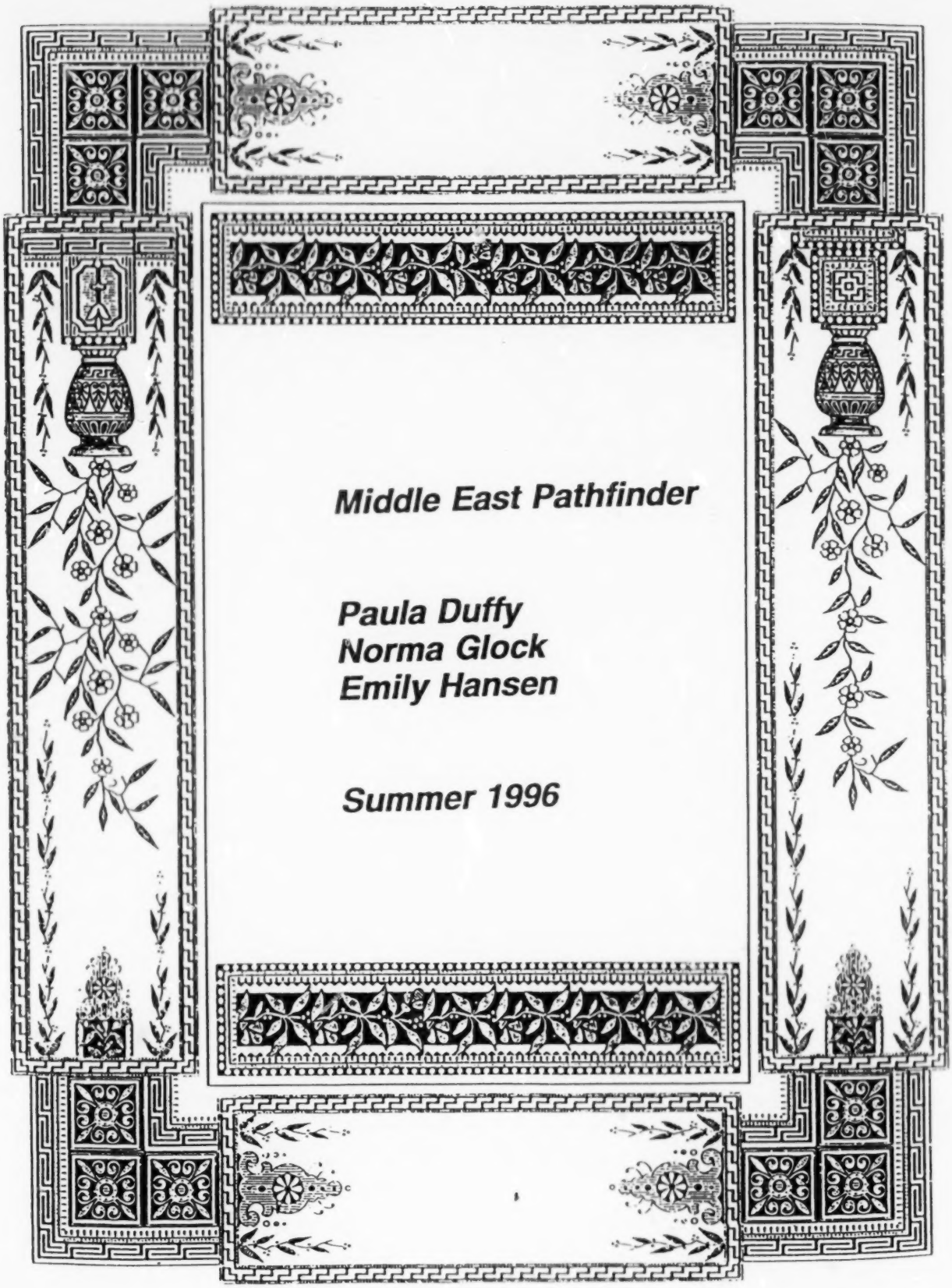
The Middle East in conflict. Strategies and worksheets: experimental. (1983) Brooklyn, N.Y.:New York City Board of Education, Division of Curriculum and Instruction. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 284 775).

Nucho, Leslie Schmida. Ed. (1990). Arab World Almanac, 1(1-3). (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 332 942).

Rasheed, Mohammed A. (1986). Teachers education development in the Arab Gulf States. Kingston, Jamaica: Paper presented at the World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 273 614).

Thacher, Jean Louise N., Comp. (1984). An annotated partial bibliography of contemporary Middle Eastern and North African poets, novelists, dramatists, and short story writers with some background titles and folk tales. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 240 497).

Valbuena, Felix Mario & others. (1978). Multicultural awareness for the classroom: the Chaldeans. Detroit, Mich: Detroit Public Schools, Dept. of Bilingual Education. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 210 395).



Middle East Pathfinder

Paula Duffy
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Summer 1996

MIDDLE EAST PATHFINDER

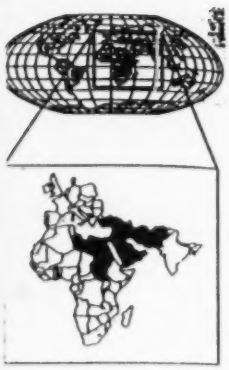
Introduction

Geographically the Middle East encompasses North Africa and western Asia (from Morroco to Egypt; Lebanon to Iraq or Iran). The majority of the population are ethnic Arabs, thus the Arab language, culture, and religion (predominately Islam) provide a common culture among the people of many nations. Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the world.

Sources:

Miller-Lachmann, L. (1995). Global Voices, global visions: a core collection of multicultural books. New Providence, NJ: R.R. Bowker.

Lewis, B. (1976). Islam and the Arab world: faith, people, culture. New York: Knopf.



Middle East

General Data

In the US, negative stereotypes abound--terrorists, oil sheiks, harems, the Arab-Israeli conflicts--since only a small number of Westerners understand the language and culture and Hollywood stereotypes Arabs. Historically, Arab immigrants in the US have not had as strong a voice (politically or culturally) as other immigrants.

In 1993, 33,000 immigrants from the Middle East entered the US. Between 1980 and 1990, 350,000 immigrants from the Middle East came to the US.

Source:

National Association of Arab Americans (NAA). 1212 New York Avenue NW, Ste 300, Washington, DC 20005. (202)-842-1840.

Folklore

Campbell, C.G.(1949). Tales from the Arab tribes: a collection of the stories told by the Arab Tribes of the Lower Euphrates. London: Ernest Benn Limited.

Sprug, J. (1994). Index to fairy tales, 1987-1992: including 310 collections of fairy tales, folktales, myths, and legends: with significant pre-1987 titles not previously indexed. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press.
Provides a subject index to fairy tales and includes listings from Babylonia, Assyria, and Egypt.

Hamilton, V. (1988). In the beginning, creation stories from around the world. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
"Apsu and Tiamat the Creators," p. 79. A myth taken from the Babylonian creation verse narrative, Enuma elish.
"God Ra the Creator," p. 111. A myth of Ra, or Re, taken from Egyptian Mortuary texts and is part of a temple ritual. Written on papyrus in 310 B.C.
"Yahweh the Creator," p. 123. Genesis account of creation.
"Elohim the Creator," p. 149. Another account of Genesis creation.

Kelsey, A. G. (1943). Once the Hodja. Eau Claire, Wisconsin: E. M. Hale and Co.
A book of short stories about Hodja, who is as Turkish as Paul Bunyan is American, and is intended to make you laugh.

Gray, J. (1969). Near Eastern mythology. London: Hamlyn Publishing Group Limited.
Historical geography and myths from Mesopotamia, Canaan, and Israel.

Inea, B. (1986). Arab folktales. New York: Pantheon Books.
Tales are group by topic (animals, religious...).

Walker, W. S., & Uysal, A. E. (1966). Tales Alive from Turkey. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
Tales are grouped by topic as well (supernatural, humorous...).

Yolen, J. (1986). Favorite folktales from around the world. New York: Pantheon Books.
Includes tales from Egypt and Syria.

Picture Books

Oppenheim, S. L. (1994). Iblis. San Diego: Harcourt Brace.
An Islamic version of the story of Adam and Eve and the fall from Paradise.

Nye, N.S. (1994). Sitti's Secrets. New York: Four Winds Press.
A U.S. Palestinian child's visit with her grandmother on the West Bank.

Heide, F.P. & Gilliland, J.H. (1992). Sami and the time of troubles.

Clarion Books.
In modern day Beirut, a 10 year old boy grows up with civil strife, guns, and bombs. Teaches empathy.

Climo, S. (1989). Egyptian Cinderella. New York: HarperCollins.
This version of Cinderella is set in sixth century B.C. Egypt. Rhodopis (a blond slave girl), eventually comes to be chosen by the Pharaoh to be his queen.

Middle Readers

In addition to the traditional "Alladin stories" like Sons of Sinbad, Ali Baba and other Arabian Nights tales, students might be interested in the following titles.

Macaulay, D. (1975). Pyramid. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Text and black-and-white illustrations follow the intricate step-by-step process of the building of an ancient Egyptian pyramid.

Haskins, J. & illus. Gustafson, D. (1991). Count your way through the Arab world. Carolrhoda Books.
Basic overview of muslims, maps, products. Learn to count in Arabic.

Mozeson, I.E. & Stavsky, L. (1994). Jerusalem Mosaic: Young Voices from the Holy City. New York: Four Winds Press.
Stories about teenage lives in Jerusalem from the perspective of different ethnic groups.

Schami, R., & Lesser, R. (trans.) (1992). A Hand Full of Stars. Puffin.
Witty and perceptive journal entries of Christian Syrian youth (14 to 17 yrs old). Illuminates Arab culture. ALA Best Book for Young Adults

Staples, S.F. (1989). Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind. New York: Knopf.
Teen-age girl growing up in the Middle East in a nomadic family.
Recommended for grades 7-12. The sequel to this book is Haveli (1993).

Historical Fiction

Alexander, S. (1983). Nadia the willful. Pantheon.
Recommended for grades K-3, Nadia helps her family during the loss of their brother (Arabian).

French, H. (1966). Lance of Kanana. Lothrop.
Recommended for grades 4-6, Kanana, a Bedouin, sacrificed his life to save Arabians from their enemies (Arabian).

Ballas, S. (1970). Shoes of Tanboury. Sabra.
Recommended for grades K-3, Tanboury saves money to buy new shoes, but he can't get rid of his old shoes (Kuwaiti).

Source for the above stories:

Anderson, V. (1994). Cultures outside the United States in fiction: a guide to 2,875 books for librarians and teachers, K-9. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
A country by country and grade level list of works. Includes sources for North African countries and Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait.

Laird, E. (1992). Kiss the Dust. New York: Dutton.
A Kurdish family's escape during the 1984 Iran-Iraq war.

Levitin, S. (1987). The Return. New York: Fawcett Juniper.
An Ethiopian Jew family's journey to Jerusalem.

Source for some of the above titles:

Kollar, J. (1993). Multicultural Bibliography. Huntington Beach, CA: Teacher Created Materials, Inc.
Good half-page overviews of multicultural books for children.

Celebrations

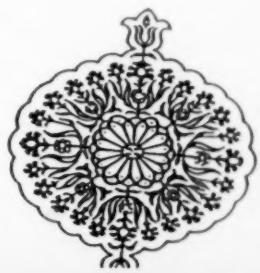
The dates of celebrations are based on a lunar calendar so celebrations are not always held on the same day every year. Ramadan, 9th month, is a fasting month for self-evaluation. During the three day celebration, Eid al-Fitr, ending the fast they feast at midday, go to fairs, shop for clothes, watch fireworks, and children receive gifts and coins from parents. They eat sacred Medina dates and Zamzam water from a well in Mecca.

During the month of Dhu al-Hijjah (twelve month) muslims pilgrimage to Mecca and gather for prayer and unity to celebrate Hajj. On the 10th day, Eid al-Adha, they kill a sheep or goat, cook it, eat part and give the rest to the poor.

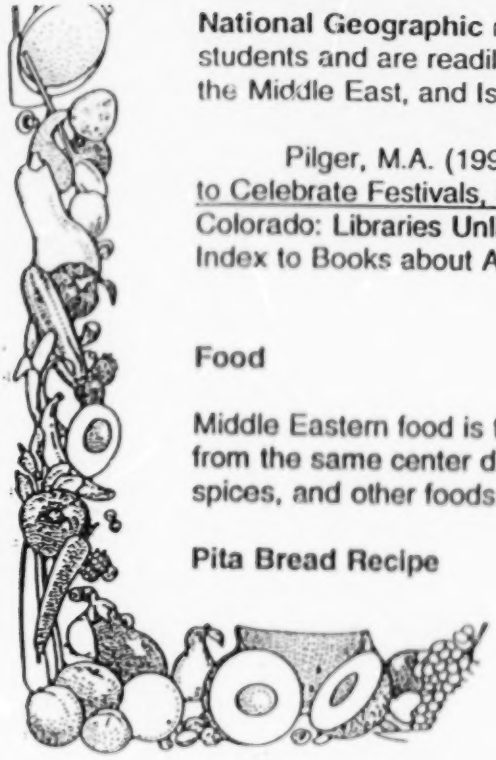
Mawlid al-Nabi is a popular celebration of Muhammed's birthday. It is for gift giving on the 12th day of Rabi.

Source:

Ada, A.F., Harris, V.J., & Hopkins, L.B. (1993). A Chorus of Cultures, Developing Literacy through Multicultural Poetry. Carmel: Hampton-Brown Books.



Another Genre



National Geographic magazines are an excellent resource for educators and students and are readily available. There are many articles on Arab countries, the Middle East, and Islam that have appeared in the magazine.

Pilger, M.A. (1992). Multicultural Projects Index, Things to Make and Do to Celebrate Festivals, Cultures, and Holidays around the World. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.
Index to Books about Arab and Jewish cultures.

Food

Middle Eastern food is traditionally served at a low table. Usually everyone eats from the same center dish using their right hand to scoop up beans, meat, spices, and other foods with pita bread.

Pita Bread Recipe

INGREDIENTS

2 packages yeast
1½ teaspoons sugar
1¾ cups very warm water
4 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt

STEPS

1. Put yeast and sugar in large bowl.
2. Add warm water. Stir until yeast and sugar are dissolved.
3. Stir in flour and salt.
4. Knead the dough for 5 minutes on a floured board.
5. Divide dough into 20 balls.
6. Roll each ball out onto a floured board to about ¼-inch thick.
7. Let dough rise in a warm place about 30-40 minutes or until puffy.
8. Bake in a 500-degree oven for 3-5 minutes or until puffy and slightly browned.
9. May be served with dip or split open and filled.

Serves 10-20, depending on use.

Yogurt, a tangy fermented milk, is another regional favorite that is made in the home from a starter saved from a previous batch. It is a common side dish, spread, snack, or dessert. A diluted version is used as a beverage.

Source:

Marden, P.C. & Barchers, S. I. (1994). Cooking up world history: multicultural recipes and resources. Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press.
Lists other Mid-East recipes as well.

Art or Craft Projects

Hayden, C. ed. (1992). Venture into Cultures, a Resource Book of Multicultural Materials and Programs. Chicago: American Library Association.
Chapter 2 title is "Arabic Materials and Programs" and contains a bibliography.

Braun-Rasmussen, J. (1976). Makeup, costumes and masks. New York: Sterling Publishing Co.
Includes a woman's costume.

Greenhowe, Jean. (1975). Stage costumes for girls. Boston: Plays, Inc.

Source: Pilger, M.A. (1992). Holidays and Special Days Project Index for Young People. Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.

Project One–Flags of the Middle East
Find the flags for the Middle Eastern countries.
What do the colors and symbols mean?

Project Two–Islamic Art
Look at books with illustrations and photos of Islamic art.
What themes or commonalities do you see in Islamic art?
How is it different from art you are familiar with?
How are mosques decorated? What does this type of decoration tell you about Islamic religion?

Project Three–Images of the Middle East
Looking through newspapers or the news on tv, what images do you see of the Middle East? What do books and other sources tell you about the Middle East? Compare the images you get from different sources. Do you think these images are realistic?

Sources:

Everix, N. (1991). Ethnic celebrations around the world: festivals, holidays and celebrations. Carthage, IL: Good Apple.
Includes a section on the country Turkey.

Rice, D. T. (1965). Islamic art. New York: Praeger.

Representative Author or Illustrator

There are not many authors writing for children who have Arab ancestry. One author--Naomi Shihab Nye--is the editor of the ALA Notable Book **This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World.** She attended school in the Old City of Jerusalem as a teenager. She lives in San Antonio, Texas. She is also the author of **Sitti's Secrets** a picture book about a girl who goes to visit her grandmother in the Middle East (source bookjacket).

Videos

Lion in the Desert with Anthony Quinn portrays a WWII Libyan fighter.
Muhammad: Messenger of Allah is a documentary about Muhammad.
Women's Rights and Roles in Islam provides an Islamic view of women. All are available from the **Ilm Islamic Bookstore** on the Internet (no other bibliographic information was provided--see **Web sites**).

Mosque (1992) 28 min. $14.95. Mary Knoll World Productions with UNICEF. Introduction to mosques and Islam for non-muslims.
Source: Mary Knowll World Productions, P.O. Box 308, MaryKnoll, NY 10545-0308. 1-800-227-8523.

The Middle East: A Closer Look. (1992) 17 min for grades 4 and up. Discover how the Middle East got its name, the countries included, and the impact of islam. Skill sheets available.

Web Sites

Site Name: Multivisions
Site Address: http://global.globale.net/'multivis/maindoc.html
Description: Sells software **Islamyat** to test one's knowledge of Islam in English and children's audio cassettes with Arabic stories.

Site Name: Dar Al-Fikr
Site Address: http://fikr.com/homeng.html
Description: Sells educational children's books that teach Arabic and Islam.

Site Name: Ilm Islamic Bookstore
Site Address: http://www.eecs.uic.edu/%7Enbutt1/book_store.html
Description: Sells instructional books (listed by grade level), coloring books, and books of rhymes, poems, and verse, as well as audio cassettes, and videos. Example titles: **Muslim Poems for Children** by Mymona Hendricks and **Muslim Nursery Rhymes** by Mustafa McDermott.

Curricular Resources

The keywords used in an ERIC (1992-1996) search were **middle east and children**. This generated twelve resources. Two are listed below.

Shabbas, A. (1991). The Arabs: activities for the elementary school level, the things that make for peace: empowering children to value themselves and others. Berkley: AWAIR.
What Arabs name their children, foods from Arab lands, shadow puppets, recycled soap, and fun with Arabic geomentric designs.

Backner, A.J. (1993). "Making the Past Relevant for Today's Children: connecting with ancient civilizations". Social-Science Record,30,27-36.
Ancient middle east unit designed for the 6th grade. Includes three charts and one table that illustrate instructional strategies.